(AICPI—All India Consumer Price Index).

(c) Based on the AICPI at 2041 in March, 1999 as compared to 1873 in March, 1998, the dealers commission in respect of those dealers who do not incur demand draft charges increased from Rs. 411/KL to Rs. 413/KL for MS-87 and from Rs. 223/KL to Rs. 224/KL for HSD slab I and from Rs. 169/KL to Rs. 170/KL for HSD slab II. (KL I—Kilo litre)

(e) The process of review of mechanism for dealers/distributors' commission is a continuous one, carried out periodically by the Government.

Domestic diesel production

93. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether domestic diesel production is unable to meet the demand in the country;

(b) if so, the quantum of diesel likely to be imported during the current financial year; and

(c) the steps taken to gear up the domestic diesel shortfall?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Domestic diesel production is now almost sufficient to meet our domestic demand.

(b) Import of diesel during the current financial year is estimated at 4 MMT.

(c) In order to meet our domestic demand through domestic availability of petroleum products including diesel, Government has taken action for expansion of existing refining capacity and has approved setting up of new refineries in Public, Private and Joint Sectors.